

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 210473

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EO. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, ECON, SA

SUBJECT: ECONOMIC EXPERTS FOR FOREIGN MINISTRY AND MINISTRY
OF FINANCE

REF: STATE 204512

1. TREASURY ECONOMIST WILLIAM H. WITHERELL IS NOW TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED TO DEPART WASHINGTON SEPTEMBER 1 TO ARRIVE IN RIYADH FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, FOR A STAY OF FOUR DAYS TO ASSIST MFNE IN DEVELOPING JOB DESCRIPTION FOR POSITIONS MENTIONED REFTTEL. TREASURY STATES THAT WITHERELL CANNOT EXTEND HIS STAY BEYOND FOUR DAYS OWING TO NECESSITY OF ATTENDING A MEETING IN PARIS. IMPLICATION IS THAT HE ALSO CANNOT LEAVE EARLIER THAN SEPTEMBER 1.

2. ALTHOUGH TREASURY STATES THAT WITHERELL MIGHT PASS BY JIDDA FOREIGN MINISTRY AFTER COMPLETING HIS WORK IN RIYADH, IT IS CLEAR THAT THERE WOULD BE INSUFFICIENT TIME TO PRODUCE SIMILAR JOB DESCRIPTIONS. (HUMMON, WE UNDERSTAND, CONFIDENTIAL

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WAS OF THE VIEW THAT FOUR DAYS FOR RIYADH WAS INSUFFICIENT

BUT TREASURY IS CONFIDENT THAT WITHERELL CAN ACCOMPLISH THE JOB.) WE DEEM IT UNLIKELY THAT TREASURY WOULD SOON FREE WITHERELL AGAIN FOR A SECOND VISIT TO SAUDI ARABIA FOLLOWING

COMPLETION OF MFNE SURVEY.

3. WE SEE FOLLOWING OPTIONS:

A. ASK TREASURY TO POSTPONE WITHERELL VISIT UNTIL HE IS ABLE TO PERFORM SIMILAR SERVICES FOR BOTH FOREIGN MINISTRY AND MINISTRY OF FINANCE. (FOREIGN MINISTRY WOULD IN THIS CASE THEN RELY ON JEC TO TURN TO PROFESSIONAL RECRUITMENT AGENCY TO FIND QUALIFIED CANDIDATES, JUST AS JEC WILL PROBABLY DO FOR FINANCE.)

B. ALLOW WITHERELL VISIT TO PROCEED AS SCHEDULED, AND FIND ANOTHER QUALIFIED ECONOMIST WITHIN USG WHO COULD PERFORM SIMILAR JOB DESCRIPTION SURVEY. (FOREIGN MINISTRY WOULD HAVE TO FUND VISIT THROUGH JEC OR OTHER MEANS.) RESULTS OF THIS SURVEY WOULD THEN BE USED AS BASIS FOR REQUEST THROUGH JEC FOR RECRUITMENT ASSISTANCE.

4. SINCE CONTRACTING FOR RECRUITMENT SERVICES WOULD ULTIMATELY NEED TO BE HANDLED VIA JEC (UNLESS SAG IS PREPARED TO CONCLUDE ITS OWN CONTRACT WITH RECRUITMENT FIRM), WE WOULD HAVE PREFERRED THAT NEEDS OF MFNE AND FOREIGN MINISTRY BE VIEWED AS A WHOLE AND DEALT WITH BY ONE JOB-DESCRIPTION "SURVEYOR", AND ONE RECRUITMENT CONTRACT. IN VIEW TREASURY RELUCTANCE TO COMBINE REQUESTS, HOWEVER, WE DO NOT PLAN TO OBJECT TO WITHERELL VISIT AT THIS TIME. KISSINGER

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